



First Presbyterian Church of Bethlehem

Christmas Eve

Intergenerational Service 4 p.m.

December 24, 2021

PRELUDE It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

Richard Willis

Away in a Manger (Cradle Song)

William Kirkpatrick

Contemporary Ensemble

WELCOME AND PASSING OF THE PEACE

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

The Peterson Family

Leader: In God's house, there is hope—

For God loves us too much to leave us just as we are.

People: Light the candle of hope.

Leader: In God's house, there is peace—

For all that separates us from God falls away.

People: Light the candle of peace.

Leader: In God's house, there is joy—

Because God created music, and hot chocolate, and flowers, and laughter that is contagious, and endless rounds of peek-a-boos with babies; and if those things have God's fingerprints, then God's house surely exudes joy.

People: Light the candle of joy.

Leader: In God's house, there is love—

Because God is love, from start to finish, and that love is for us all.

People: Light the candle of love.

Leader: And in the center of our hope,

People: In the center of our peace,

Leader: In the center of our joy,

People: In the center of our love, is God—

Leader: who came to this earth to live among us. So tonight we light the Christ candle, for God's love is born to us in a baby in a manger.

People: Welcome home. Amen.

CAROL

#41

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES

1 O come, all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem!
Come, and behold Him,
Born the King of angels!

Refrain:

O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ, the Lord!

2 Yea, Lord, we greet Thee,
Born this happy morning,
Jesus, to Thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father,
Now in flesh appearing! [Refrain]

3 Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation!
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven
above!
Glory to God, all
Glory in the highest! [Refrain]

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

You love us wider than the ocean, God.

But sometimes we forget.

Your peace is calmer than the most quiet night, God.

But sometimes our minds are noisy.

You want us to love our neighbors taller than the trees, God.

But sometimes we only love them an itsy bit.

Forgive us, God. Help us to love like you—tall and wide.

And help us share your peace in the world.

In Jesus' name, amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Open our eyes, so that we can see like Jesus.

Open our ears, so that we can listen for God's voice.

Open our minds, so that we can learn something new.

Open our hearts, so that we might feel God's love.

Amen.

SACRED STORY Interactive Nativity

SACRED SONG

#25

Away in a Manger

MUELLER

1 Away in a manger, no crib for His bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down His
sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where
He lay,
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

2 The cattle are lowing, the poor
Baby wakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He
makes.
I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down
from the sky,
And stay by my cradle till morning
is nigh.

3 Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee
to stay
Close by me forever and love me, I
pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy
tender care,
And fit us for heaven to live with
Thee there.

SACRED STORY: *The Message of the Birds* by Kate Westerlund and Feridun Oral

SACRED IMAGINATION

EMBODIED PRAYER

CALL FOR OFFERING

Call to Give

Offertory

Hark the Herald Angels Sing

arr. Paul Baloche

Contemporary Ensemble

*Response -

#36

In the Bleak Midwinter

Verse 4

CRANHAM

4 What can I give Him,
Poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd,
I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man,
I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give Him:
Give my heart.

*Prayer of Dedication

CANDLE LIGHTING

#60

Silent Night

Verse 1, 3 & 4

STILLE NACHT

1 Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright,
Round yon virgin mother and Child!
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

3 Silent night, holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy
face,
With the dawn of redeeming
grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

4 Silent night, holy night!
Wondrous star, lend thy light;
With the angels let us sing,
Alleluia to our King;
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born!

BENEDICTION

CAROL

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

#29

GO TELL IT

Refrain:

Go, tell it on the mountain
Over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain,
That Jesus Christ is born.

1 While shepherds kept their
watching
O'er silent flocks by night,
Behold throughout the heavens
There shone a holy light. (Refrain)

2 The shepherds feared and trembled,
When lo! above the earth,
Rang out the angels chorus
That hailed our Savior's birth. (Refrain)

3 Down in a lowly manger
The humble Christ was born,
And God sent us salvation
That blessed Christmas morn.
(Refrain)

POSTLUDE Postlude on "ANTIOCH"

Richard Purvis